



**ANZ PACIFIC NATIONS CUP  
2009**

**STATISTICAL REVIEW  
AND MATCH ANALYSIS**

**IRB GAME ANALYSIS**



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## COMMENTARY

The **Pacific Nations Cup** together with the Nations Cup are key elements of the IRB's 3 year global strategic investment programme. They serve a variety of objectives – they are an integral development tool for the participating unions, and are a vehicle for identifying players capable of performing at the highest levels of the game in the near or distant future.

Detailed analysis reports are prepared on both these competitions and the report that follows comprises an in-depth statistical analysis of the 2009 Pacific Nations Cup. A similar report has been prepared on the 2009 Nations Cup.

Both these reports have similar objectives – they reflect the shape of the game as manifested in each tournament; and provide a basis whereby each participating country can compare its performance in major areas of the game with the other teams that played in the competition as well as being used to establish benchmarks and performance indicators for future tournaments.

The reports can also be used for additional reasons. The two tournaments can be compared to see if the shape of the game is similar in each of them – and then those resulting shapes can be compared to the game played at the highest level. This Commentary therefore will now address these two issues by (a) by making a brief comparison of the Pacific Nations Cup and the Nations Cup and (b) by comparing the results with the latest completed highest level competition, the 2009 Six Nations.

### PACIFIC NATIONS CUP 2009 AND NATIONS CUP 2009

The core elements of a game comprise 2 broad areas

(a) the level of activity involved - which is measured by the amount of ball in play which in turn produces passes, rucks/mauls and kicks, and

(b) the number of set pieces - which incorporate lineouts, scrums and also to penalties and free kicks.

The following table compares the core elements in the two tournaments:

	Pacific Nations Cup 2009	Nations Cup 2009
Ball in play	40%	41%
Passes	219	223
Rucks/mauls	120	131
Kicks	50	52
Lineouts	25	26
Scrums	19	20
Penalties/free kicks	22	21

The table shows a remarkable similarity between the two tournaments with the minimal differences explained largely by the 1% difference in ball in play.

On the face of it therefore, the shape of the game in each tournament was very similar. In its constituent elements there was little difference. There were however striking differences when

it came to output. The scoring profiles of the two tournaments were dramatically different as shown below

	Pacific Nations Cup 2009	Nations Cup 2009
<b>Tries</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>Penalty goals</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>Drop goals</b>	<b>0 in 10 matches</b>	<b>3 in 9 matches</b>
<b>Tries scored by backs</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Tries scored by forwards</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Penalty Tries</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>-</b>

The table shows that there were

- ◆ 67% more tries in the Pacific Nations Cup but
- ◆ 39% more penalty goals in the Nations Cup
- ◆ the ratio of tries to penalty goals in Pacific Nations was **2.7 : 1** and in nations Cup **1.2 : 1**

It is important to note that these figures were not distorted by one team in the Pacific Nations Cup scoring a disproportionately high number of tries. In fact, the converse was the case. All teams in Pacific Nations scored more tries than their counterparts in the Nations Cup even allowing for the fact each Pacific Nations teams played 4 matches and the Nations teams three. The tries scored by the respective teams were as follows:

Pacific Nations teams tries scored:  
24, 13, 13, 12, 10.

Nations teams tries scored:  
12, 8, 7, 5, 4, 3.



From this comparison therefore it can be said that the shape of the game produced by the two tournaments as defined by its core elements was very similar. What was quite different however was the outputs – these took a radically different form. (\*There was however a paradoxical twist in the tale. In the Nations Cup all nine matches were won by the team scoring the most tries, but this was not the case in Pacific Nations. The team scoring most tries won only 6 games of the ten, illustrating again, the variety and unpredictable essence of the game)

### PACIFIC NATIONS CUP 2009 / NATIONS CUP 2009 COMPARED TO 6 NATIONS 2009

The following table follows the format of the previous table with the additional corresponding figures relating to 6 Nations 2009. The areas of major differences have been highlighted

	Pacific Nations Cup 2009	Nations Cup 2009	6 Nations 2009
<b>Ball in play</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Passes</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>273</b>
<b>Rucks/mauls</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>Kicks</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Lineouts</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Scrums</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Penalties/free kicks</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>

It can be seen that the major contrast revolves around ball in play – in 6 Nations 2009 it was around 22% more. This produced proportionately more passes and kicks but far more rucks and mauls. There were between 33% and 45% more in the 6 Nations tournament compared

to the two other tournaments because of an increased ball in play but also because of greater rucking intensity.

The level of ball in play can be affected by a number of factors – more stoppages for scrums, lineouts, penalties, tries and kicks at goal can have an impact. An extra 5 seconds per set piece and penalty stoppage, for example, can reduce overall ball in play by some 6%.

Whatever the reason for reduced ball in play, however, it has a major significance since it produces a real challenge for the developing teams when matches at a higher international level involve far greater ball in play times. These may contain up to 50% more rucks and mauls - thereby requiring a level of physical contact far greater than that experienced in the tournaments under review – especially towards the end of a game when opponents' experienced and powerful substitutes benches can increase such demands even further. It can often mean that after 60-65 minutes a team from an emerging country is entering an uncharted territory that demands extra physical resources that are exceptionally taxing especially against reinforced opponents.

Both developing tournaments contained similar ball in play – but as mentioned above, their scoring profile was quite different. The next table shows the scoring profile in the 3 tournaments:

	Pacific Nations Cup 2009	Nations Cup 2009	6 Nations 2009
Tries	7.2	4.3	3.7
Penalty goals	2.7	3.5	4.9
Drop goals	0 in 10 matches	3 in 9 matches	9 in 15 games
Tries scored by backs	61%	41%	77%
Tries scored by forwards	36%	59%	23%
Penalty Tries	3%	-	-

It has already been seen that in the two development competitions, tries outnumbered penalty goals. This was not the case in the 2009 6 Nations competition however and the difference is emphasised further in this year's Tri Nations. In the first five Tri Nations matches, 11 tries have been scored while 47 penalty goals have been kicked, a ratio of 4.3 penalty goals to one try – and the differences between the two groups of competition become even emphatic when shown in tabular form:

	Pacific Nations Cup 2009 and Nations Cup 2009 19 MATCHES	6 Nations 2009 and Tri Nations 2009 (matches 1 - 5) 20 MATCHES
TRIES	111	67
PENALTY GOALS	59	121

The table shows that tries and penalty goals assume far different proportions in different level competitions – it indicates that the higher the level, and the more intense the competition, the more emphasis is placed on penalties as a prime method of scoring, a fact emphasised every 4 years in the last stages of RWC.

So much for the two comparison exercises. A reference to some elements in the Pacific Nations Cup now follows.

Last year's tournament threw up some interesting contrasts. The competition divided itself –at least in some areas – into 2 groups of teams. NZ Maori, Australia A and Japan comprised one group (**Group A**) and the 3 Pacific Island teams (**Group B**) comprised the other. In several areas, there were distinct differences:

- The top 3 passing teams were in **Group A** passing 43% more than the Pacific Islands **Group B** teams
- **Group A** teams passed at a rate that was 28% higher than **Group B** teams

- The three **Group B** teams were penalised more than any of the three **Group A** teams
- Ball in play was less when the Pacific Islanders played each other. The two lowest percentages were in such matches with the 3 matches producing an average ball in play figure of just 36%.

The differences were nowhere near as pronounced this year – in fact some of the differences disappeared completely. The ball in play percentages was universally spread, and there were no groupings as far as penalties were concerned. The area where there was some continuity was in passing - and rate of passing - where Tonga remained by far the lowest passing team followed by Fiji. Meanwhile, Samoa's passing game showed a noticeable increase going from 89 per game to 120, second only to the Junior All Black's 133.

The following sections of the report summarise the performance of the teams in certain key areas of the game, highlighting certain outcomes which in turn can be examined further in the more detailed report and analysis that follows. The figures that have been inserted as comparatives for the Junior All Blacks are those produced by NZ Maoris in the 2008 competition.





## IRB PACIFIC NATIONS CUP 2009

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	PTS
<b>JUNIOR ALL BLACKS</b>	4	4	0	0	161	79	3	19
<b>FIJI</b>	4	3	0	1	112	120	2	14
<b>SAMOA</b>	4	2	0	2	91	64	4	12
<b>JAPAN</b>	4	1	0	3	96	145	2	6
<b>TONGA</b>	4	0	0	4	79	131	1	1

P = Played    W = Won    D = Draw    L = Lost    F = Point For    A = Points Against    BP = Bonus Points    PTS = Points

	<b>SAMOA</b>	16		<b>JUNIOR AB</b>	17
	<b>TONGA</b>	22		<b>FIJI</b>	36
	<b>JAPAN</b>	15		<b>SAMOA</b>	34
	<b>JUNIOR AB</b>	45		<b>FIJI</b>	17
	<b>SAMOA</b>	27		<b>TONGA</b>	13
	<b>JAPAN</b>	21		<b>JUNIOR AB</b>	52
	<b>TONGA</b>	19		<b>JAPAN</b>	21
	<b>SAMOA</b>	14		<b>FIJI</b>	19
	<b>TONGA</b>	25		<b>JUNIOR AB</b>	47
	<b>FIJI</b>	40		<b>JAPAN</b>	39



## SECTION 1 – SUMMARY OF CONSTITUENT GAME ELEMENTS

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### SUMMARY

The attached report does 3 things:

- 1 it reflects the shape of the international game as played in IRB Pacific Nations Cup 2009
- 2 it shows any changes in the shape of the game compared with the IRB Pacific Nations Cup 2008
- 3 it provides a basis whereby each participating country can compare its performance in major areas of the game with the other teams that played in the competition as well as perhaps being used to establish benchmarks and performance indicators for future tournaments.





## SECTION 1 – SUMMARY OF CONSTITUENT GAME ELEMENTS



### IRB PACIFIC NATIONS CUP 2009

This is the second time that a report has been prepared on the Pacific Nations Cup – and the following short table shows comparatives on certain key elements of the game in both years. Where there have been noticeable differences, these have been highlighted:

	PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008	
POINTS	54	49	
TRIES	7.2	6.1	
PENALTY GOALS	2.7	3.2	
DROP GOALS	0 in 10 matches	1 in 15 matches	
BALL IN PLAY	40%	39%	
PASSES	219	219	
RUCK/MAULS	120	117	
KICKS	50	49	
LINEOUTS	25	31	DECREASE
SCRUMS	19	19	
PENALTIES	22	22	



## SECTION 1 – SUMMARY OF CONSTITUENT GAME ELEMENTS

The following data also comes from the detailed report that follows and reflects in summary form the modern game as expressed through this year's Pacific Nations Cup 2009. It also contains comparative figures from last year's Pacific Nations Championship. It can be seen that there are minimal differences from last year.

	PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
% of points from TRIES	67%	62%
% of points from PENALTY GOALS	15%	20%
% of points from CONVERSIONS	18%	18%
% of points from DROP GOALS	-	<1
TRIES per game	7.2	6.1
PENALTY GOALS per game	2.7	3.2
DROP GOALS per game	0 in 10	1 in 15
TRIES SCORED BY BACKS	61%	66%
TRIES SCORED BY FORWARDS	36%	34%
PENALTY TRIES	3%	-
MATCHES with point margin of 20 or less	7 of 10	10 of 15
CONVERSION SUCCESS RATE	68%	71%
PENALTY GOAL SUCCESS RATE	59%	59%
DROP GOAL SUCCESS RATE	0/5	1/5
matches won by TEAM SCORING MOST TRIES	6 of 10	13 of 15
matches won by TEAM SCORING LEAST TRIES	2	2
TRIES EQUAL	2	-
% of TRIES FROM LINEOUT POSSESSION	32%	31%
% of TRIES FROM SCRUM POSSESSION	14%	16%
% of TRIES FROM PENALTY/FREE KICKS	12%	8%
% of TRIES FROM TURNOVER/ERROR	24%	18%
% of TRIES FROM OPPONENTS KICKS	17%	27%
OTHER	1%	-
BALL IN PLAY TIME	40%	39%
% of all PASSES MADE BY BACKS	39%	38%
% of all PASSES MADE BY SCRUM HALF	41%	42%
% of all PASSES MADE BY FORWARDS	20%	20%
% of LINEOUT POSSESSION RETAINED	76%	75%
% of SCRUM POSSESSION RETAINED	90%	91%
% of RUCK/MAUL POSSESSION RETAINED	90%	91%
YELLOW AND RED CARDS	7 yellow – 0 red	8 yellow–0 red

### THE TEAMS PERFORMANCES

## SECTION 1 – SUMMARY OF CONSTITUENT GAME ELEMENTS

This section summarises each team's activity and performance in certain critical areas of the game. Again, further and far more extensive analysis can be found in the main report.

The number of **tries scored and conceded** by each team and the number of **penalty and drop goals** kicked is shown in the following table

	Tries scored 2009	Tries scored 2008	Tries conceded 2008	Tries conceded 2009	Penalty goals 2009	Penalty goals 2008	Drop Goals 1009
JAB	24	18	11	6	1	6	
JAP	12	13	21	25	6	13	1
SAM	13	12	6	13	6	7	
FJI	13	12	16	15	9	6	
TON	10	6	18	23	5	11	






The table shows where each team's points came from - distinguishing between **points from tries and points from kicks**.

	% of points from Tries	% of points from Kicks
JAB	75%	25%
SAM	71%	29%
FJI	58%	42%
JAP	63%	37%
TON	63%	37%






This table shows how **effective each team was in converting possession into points**

	PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
JAB	1 try scored every 2 min 49 secs	1 try scored every 4min 57secs
FJI	4 min 42 secs	6min 10secs
SAM	4 min 59 secs	5min 57secs
JAP	5 min 30secs	5min 49secs
TON	5 min 58 secs	12min 56secs






The **effectiveness in preventing opponents from converting possession into points** is in the table below.

		PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
	<b>SAM</b>	<b>1 try conceded every 10min 50secs</b>	<i>1 try conceded every 5min 58secs</i>
	<b>JAB</b>	<b>5min 28 secs</b>	<i>12min 49secs</i>
	<b>FJI</b>	<b>4min 12secs</b>	<i>5min 33secs</i>
	<b>TON</b>	<b>3min 35secs</b>	<i>3min 23secs</i>
	<b>JAP</b>	<b>2min 59secs</b>	<i>3min 17secs</i>

Each teams **overall kicking success rate** was as follows:

		PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
	<b>JAB</b>	<b>71%</b>	<i>61%</i>
	<b>FJI</b>	<b>70%</b>	<i>63%</i>
	<b>JAP</b>	<b>68%</b>	<i>63%</i>
	<b>TON</b>	<b>67%</b>	<i>71%</i>
	<b>SAM</b>	<b>43%</b>	<i>52%</i>

The average time in **possession of the ball** per game by each team is shown in the attached table:

		PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
	<b>JAB</b>	<b>16m 56s</b>	<i>17min 50secs</i>
	<b>JAP</b>	<b>16m 31s</b>	<i>15min 08secs</i>
	<b>SAM</b>	<b>16m 13s</b>	<i>14min 17secs</i>
	<b>FJI</b>	<b>15m 17s</b>	<i>14min 48secs</i>
	<b>TON</b>	<b>14m 55s</b>	<i>15min 32secs</i>

Again, further and far more extensive analysis can be found in the main report.

The team data shown below is also extracted from the detailed report follows



**JUNIOR ALL BLACKS**

- ◆ Scored almost twice as many tries as any other team
- ◆ Best kicking rate and kicked only one penalty goal in 4 matches
- ◆ Obtained more possession than any other team
- ◆ Highest rucking team
- ◆ Least retained scrum success



### SAMOA

- ◆ best defence – only 6 tries conceded, 5 fewer than next lowest team
- ◆ worst kicking success, missing 9 of 13 conversions
- ◆ forwards made 24% of all passes, the highest of any team
- ◆ front row, second row and back row all likely to pass more than other 4 teams
- ◆ lowest rucking team and ruck/maul retention



### FIJI

- ◆ Joint highest scrum success
- ◆ Least successful at lineout especially on opponents put in
- ◆ Kicked most long restarts
- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> row least likely to pass the ball



### JAPAN

- ◆ Conceded most tries this year and last
- ◆ Only team to concede most tries in first half
- ◆ Maintained most constant level of passes per game
- ◆ Forwards least likely to pass the ball
- ◆ front row half as likely to pass the ball as any other front row
- ◆ highest kicking team
- ◆ kicked almost all restarts short
- ◆ least penalised team
- ◆ highest ruck/maul retention



### TONGA

- ◆ obtained less possession than any other team
- ◆ kicked all 5 penalty goals in first half
- ◆ made only 36 passes in game against Junior all Blacks
- ◆ highest rucking rate
- ◆ second highest steals of opponents' lineout
- ◆ most success on opposition scrum
- ◆ most yellow cards

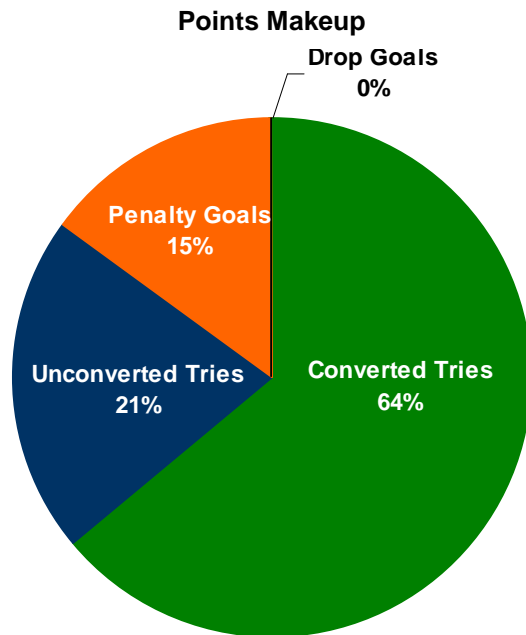
**SCORING**

There were **539** points scored in the 10 matches played, giving an average of **54** points per game. (2008 – 49) They were made up as follows:

**Of the total points scored:**  
**67% came from TRIES**  
**15% came from PENALTY GOALS**  
**18% came from CONVERSIONS**  
**0% came from DROP GOALS**

**Type of Score**

	Total	Points
Converted Tries	49	343
Unconverted Tries	23	115
Penalty Goals	27	81
Drop Goals	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>539</b>



	Av points	Av tries	Conversion success rate	Av Pen Goals	Try : Penalty Goal ratio	Av Drop Goals
2009	54	7.2	68%	2.7	2.7 : 1	0 in 10 matches
2008	49	6.1	71%	3.2	1.9 : 1	1 in 15 matches

**WINNING MARGINS**

The winning margins in each of the 10 matches fell into the following ranges

Points Difference	No of matches 2009	Cumulative 2009	Cumulative 2008
1 – 5	4	4 = 5 points or less	4 = 5 points or less
6 – 10	-	4 = 10 points or less	5 = 10 points or less
11 – 20	3	7 = 20 points or less	10 = 20 points or less
21 – 30	2	9 = 30 points or less	12 = 30 points or less
31 – 40	1	10 = 40 points or less	13 = 40 points or less
			14 = 50 points or less
			1 more than 50

### POINTS FOR AND AGAINST

Not surprisingly, points scored and conceded varied throughout the various teams - totals and average points per team are shown attached

	Points for		Points Against	
	Total	Average	Total	Average
<b>JAB</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>41</b> <i>(2008 – 27)</i>	<b>79</b>	<b>20</b> <i>(2008 – 12)</i>
<b>FJI</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>28</b> <i>(2008 – 19)</i>	<b>120</b>	<b>30</b> <i>(2008 – 23)</i>
<b>JAP</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>24</b> <i>(2008 – 24)</i>	<b>145</b>	<b>36</b> <i>(2008 – 36)</i>
<b>SAM</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>23</b> <i>(2008 – 19)</i>	<b>64</b>	<b>16</b> <i>(2008 – 23)</i>
<b>TON</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>20</b> <i>(2008 – 14)</i>	<b>131</b>	<b>33</b> <i>(2008 – 36)</i>

### PENALTY GOALS

There were **27 penalty goals** kicked in 2009. All teams scored more tries than penalty goals.

	Tries Scored	Penalty Goals Kicked	Ratio Tries : PGs
<b>JAB</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24 : 1</b>
<b>SAM</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2.2 : 1</b>
<b>TON</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2 : 1</b>
<b>JAP</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2 : 1</b>
<b>FJI</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.4 : 1</b>

### IMPACT OF THE PENALTY GOAL ON MATCH RESULTS

In Pacific Nations Cup 2009, the winning team scored the most tries in 6 of the 10 matches or 60% of matches.






In 2 games the tries were equal – and in 2 games the team scoring fewer tries than their opponents and won the game.

## TRY SCORING

The total number of tries, penalty goals and drop goals scored by each country in Pacific Nations Cup 2009 was as follows:

	Tries	Penalty Goals	Drop Goals
<b>JAB</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>FJI</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SAM</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>JAP</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TON</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>






The following table shows the percentage of points that each team scored through (a) tries and (b) kicks

		<b>% of points from Tries</b>	<b>% of points from Kicks</b>
	<b>JAB</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>25%</b>
	<b>SAM</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>29%</b>
	<b>JAP</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>37%</b>
	<b>TON</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>37%</b>
	<b>FJI</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>42%</b>

**RATE OF TRY SCORING**






The table immediately above shows the number of tries scored by each country. The table does not show however how effective each team was in scoring tries in relation to the possession that it obtained. A team may obtain little possession but still manage to score a significant number of tries. The following paragraph considers this and attempt to show how successful each team was in converting possession into tries.

This was done by adding together the time each team was in possession of the ball in each of the matches played and then dividing it by the number of tries scored. The result then gave a rate of try scoring – or a measure of how effective each country was in converting possession into tries.

	<b>Total tries scored</b>	<b>PACIFIC NATIONS 2009</b>	<b>PACIFIC NATIONS 2008</b>	
	<b>JAB</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1 try scored every 2 min 49 secs</b>	<i>1 try scored every 4min 57secs</i>
	<b>FJI</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4 min 42 secs</b>	<i>6mn 10secs</i>
	<b>SAM</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4 min 59 secs</b>	<i>5min 57secs</i>
	<b>JAP</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5 min 30secs</b>	<i>5min 49secs</i>
	<b>TON</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5 min 58 secs</b>	<i>12min 56secs</i>

**RATE OF TRY CONCEDED**

Following the above exercise, the converse was looked at ie. how effective each team was in restricting tries in relation to the possession that their opponents obtained. The attached table tries to measure this by illustrating how successful each team was in preventing their opposition from converting possession into tries. This was done by adding together the total time the team's opponents were in possession of the ball - and then dividing it by the number of tries conceded. The result then gave a rate of try scoring by the opposition.

	<b>Total tries conceded</b>	<b>PACIFIC NATIONS 2009</b>	<b>PACIFIC NATIONS 2008</b>	
	<b>SAM</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1 try conceded every 10min 50secs</b>	<i>1 try conceded every 5min 58secs</i>
	<b>JAB</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5min 28 secs</b>	<i>12min 49secs</i>
	<b>FJI</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4min 12secs</b>	<i>5min 33secs</i>
	<b>TON</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3min 35secs</b>	<i>3min 23secs</i>
	<b>JAP</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2min 59secs</b>	<i>3min 17secs</i>



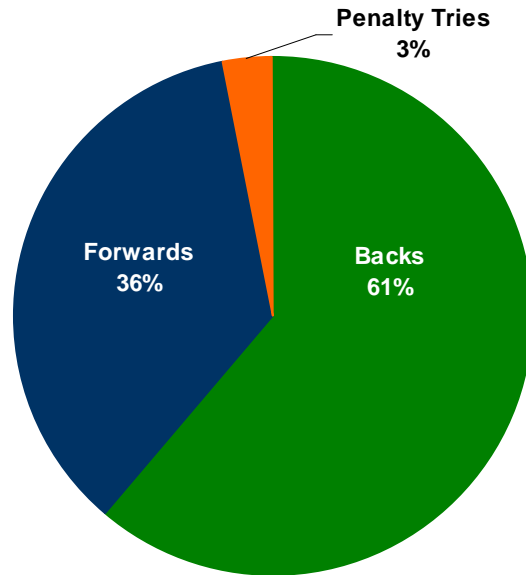
**PLAYERS AND TRIES**

It has been noted above that there were 72 tries scored in the 10 matches:

**44** tries – **61%** (2008 - 66%) were scored by Backs (2008 – 66%)

**26** tries – **36%** (2008-34%) were scored by Forwards (2008 – 34%)

**2** penalty tries – **3%**



The breakdown between the 5 competing teams is shown below:

This again was an area of contrast. While Junior All Black’s backs scored over twice as many tries as their forwards, the ratios of the other 4 teams were far closer.

	Tries scored by Backs	Tries scored by Forwards	Penalty tries
<b>JAB</b>	17	7	
<b>FJI</b>	8	5	1
<b>JAP</b>	7	5	
<b>SAM</b>	7	5	
<b>TON</b>	5	4	1

**TRIES**

**1. SOURCE OF TRIES**

There were **72** tries scored in Pacific Nations Cup 2009 – (2008 – 92 but in 15 matches)

The teams scoring the tries obtained possession of the ball prior to the scoring of the try from a variety of sources. Analyses of matches played at international level, over several years, have shown that the most fruitful source of possession has consistently and clearly been the lineout. This was maintained in Pacific Nations 2009.

- Lineout – Own
- Turnover/Handling Error
- Opponents Kick
- Scrum –Own
- Penalty/Free Kick
- Lineout – Opp
- Restart – Opp
- Scrum – Opp

Possession Source of Tries	Percentage
Lineout – Own	24%
Turnover/Handling Error	24%
Opponents Kick	17%
Scrum –Own	14%
Penalty/Free Kick	12%
Lineout – Opp	8%
Restart – Opp	1%
Scrum – Opp	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

It can be seen from the table that almost 24% of tries came from turnovers. This is an exceptionally high percentage and, bearing in mind the possibilities created from turnover ball, it could go some way to explaining the high try count.

The following table shows the source of **tries scored** by the 5 teams:

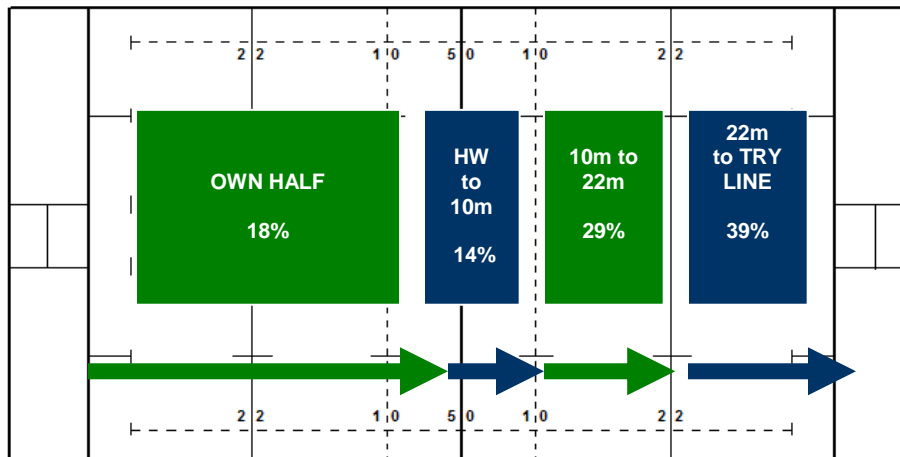
	Lineout	Scrum	Pen/Fk	Opp Kick	Turnover	Restart	Total Scored
<b>JAB</b>	9	3	1	5	5	1	24
<b>SAM</b>	4	1	4	2	2		13
<b>FJI</b>	3	3	3	1	3		13
<b>JAP</b>	5	1	1	1	4		12
<b>TON</b>	2	2		3	3		10

The next table shows the source from which their **opponent's tries** came:

	Lineout	Scrum	Pen/Fk	Opp Kick	Turnover	Restart	Total Conceded
<b>SAM</b>	3		1	1	1		6
<b>JAB</b>	2	2	3	2	2		11
<b>FJI</b>	7	4		3	2		16
<b>TON</b>	3	3	3	2	7		18
<b>JAP</b>	8	1	2	4	5	1	21

### 2. ORIGIN OF TRIES

Tries originate from various parts of the pitch – this is illustrated below:



In 2009, just under 1 in 5 tries originated from within the scoring teams own half (18%). This compares with 1 in 3 in 2008 (37%).

The following table shows the origin of all tries scored for each team.

		Own Half	Halfway to 10m	10m to 22m	22m to Try-line	Total Scored
	JAB	6	4	9	5	24
	SAM	1	2	6	4	13
	FJI	2	1	2	8	13
	JAP	1	1	2	8	12
	TON	3	2	2	3	10

The following table provides the converse to the above ie. It shows – for each team – the origin of all tries conceded.

		Opp Half	Halfway to 10m	10m to 22m	22m to Try-line	Total Conceded
	SAM	2	1	1	2	6
	JAB	1	1	3	6	11
	FJI	1	2	5	8	16
	TON	1	2	9	6	18
	JAP	8	4	3	6	21

### 3 TRY LOCATIONS

The chart below indicates where across the goal-line tries were scored. It shows that:

- 19% were scored under the posts
- 49% the left side of the posts, and
- 32% on the right side of the posts.

### 4. BUILD-UP TO TRIES

Possession of the ball that leads to tries is obtained from a number of sources – and they are listed above. More often than not, other actions – second phase, kicks and passes – then take place before the try is scored.

The first table below shows the number of rucks and mauls (2<sup>nd</sup> phase) that preceded each of the 72 tries scored in Pacific Nations Cup 2009

The table shows that only 4% of tries were preceded by 3 or more second phases. This noticeably lower percentage than in other international competitions.

	Number	%	Cumulative %
0 R/Ms	31	43%	43%
1 R/Ms	20	28%	71%
2 R/Ms	10	14%	85%
3 R/Ms	8	11%	96%
4 R/Ms	3	4%	
5 R/Ms	-	-	-
6 R/Ms	-	-	-
7 R/Ms	-	-	-
8 R/Ms	-	-	-
9 R/Ms	-	-	-
10+ R/Ms	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>		



## SECTION 2 – STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND MATCH SUMMARY

The next table shows the number of passes that preceded each of the 72 tries scored in Pacific Nations Cup 2009

The table shows that **62%** of tries were preceded by 3 or fewer passes which is similar to other tournaments. (2008 – 58%)

### TIMING OF SCORES






There was little difference between the time when tries were scored and the time when penalties were kicked.

	Number	%	Cumulative %
0 pass	17	24%	24%
1 pass	7	10%	34%
2 passes	7	10%	44%
3 passes	13	18%	62%
4 passes	9	12%	
5 passes	5	7%	
6 passes	7	10%	
7 passes	1	1%	
8 passes	4	5%	
9 +passes	1	3%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>		

In Pacific Nations Cup 2009, 32 tries (**44%**) were scored in the first half – 40 in the second (**56%**).

Compared with 13 penalty goals were kicked in the first half - 14 in the second.

The following table breaks down these figures further and shows the halves in which teams scored tries and penalty goals and the halves which they conceded tries and penalty goals.

	1st half				2nd half			
	Tries scored	PGs Scored	Tries conceded	PGs conceded	Tries scored	PGs Scored	Tries conceded	PGs conceded
 JAB	14		3	2	10	1	8	2
 SAM	4	3	2	4	9	3	4	4
 FJI	6	3	7	4	7	6	9	2
 JAP	4	2	11	2	8	4	10	2
 TON	4	5	9	1	6		9	4
<b>TOT</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>14</b>

## KICKS AT GOAL

Kicking success rates were as follows:






	Kicking success rates
Conversions	68%
Penalty goals	59%
Overall	64%
Drop goals	0 out of 5 = 0%





## SECTION 2 – STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND MATCH SUMMARY

The kicking success for penalty goals, conversions and drop kicks – of each of the participating countries was as follows:






		Penalty Success %	Conversion Success %	Overall Success %	Drop goal Success
	JAB	1 of 4	79%	71%	No attempts
	FJI	9 of 14	77%	70%	No attempts
	JAP	6 of 10	75%	68%	No attempts
	TON	5 of 8	70%	67%	0 of 1
	SAM	6 of 10	31%	43%	0 of 4

### BALL IN PLAY

In percentage terms, Pacific Nations Cup 2009 matches produced an average ball in play time of **40%** (2008 - 31min 30secs – or 39%)

The highest Ball in play figure was **43%** or 34 mins 06 secs (**Samoa v Fiji**) and (**Samoa v JAB**).  
The lowest Ball in play figure was **36%** or 28 mins 40 (**Tonga v Samoa**)

In percentage terms, the 2009 matches produced the following ball in play times  
The table also shows how much possession was obtained by each team in the 10 matches:

MATCH	BALL IN PLAY TIME	%	FJI 	JAB 	SAM 	TON 	JAP 
SAM v JAB	34m 01s	43%		17m 52s 53%	16m 09s 47%		
SAM v FJI	34m 06s	43%	15m 47s 46%		18m 19s 54%		
JAP v JAB	33m 37s	42%		15m 35s 46%			18m 02s 54%
TON v FJI	33m 46s	42%	15m 26s 46%			18m 20s 54%	
TON v JAP	31m 49s	40%				15m 06s 47%	16m 43s 53%
JAB v FJI	30m 19s	38%	15m 14s 50%	15m 05s 50%			
JAP v SAM	30m 37s	38%			17m 19s 52%		15m 45s 48%
FJI v JAP	30m 18s	38%	14m 44s 49%				15m 34s 51%
TON v JAB	29m 51s	37%		19m.12s 64%		10m 39s 36%	
SAM v TON	28m 40s	36%			13m 05s 46%	15m 35s 54%	

TOTAL

61m 11s	67m 44s	64m 52s	59m 40s	66m 04s
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## SECTION 2 – STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND MATCH SUMMARY

The table attached shows the average possession time obtained by all 5 teams

In Pacific Nations Cup 2009, the winning team had the most possession in 4 games out of 10 (2008 – 10 games out of 15)



JAB



JAP



SAM



FJI

TON

	PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
JAB	16m 56s	17m50s
JAP	16m 31s	15m08s
SAM	16m 13s	14m17s
FJI	15m 17s	14m48s
TON	14m 55s	15m32s

### ACTIVITY CYCLES

Activity cycles comprise - ruck/mauls, passes, and kicks.

Rucks/Mauls

Passes

Kicks

	PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
Rucks/Mauls	120	117
Passes	219	219
Kicks	50	49

The following paragraphs show the number of rucks/mauls, passes, and kicks made in Pacific Nations Cup 2009.

#### PASSING

Games, on average, contained **219** passes

The most in any game was **253** (Samoa v Junior AB)

The fewest was **175** (Samoa v Tonga). The most by any team in a game was **166** – the fewest, **36**



JAB



SAM



JAP



FJI

TON

	PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
JAB	133	140
SAM	120	89
JAP	116	112
FJI	103	100
TON	77	82

The above table shows the average passes per game per team

Again, there were noticeable differences between the 5 teams with **Junior All Blacks** making 60% more passes than **Tonga**. Some of this can be accounted for by the greater possession that they obtained.

When an adjustment is made to take account of this, for all teams, then the above table changes – albeit slightly. This next table now shows the average number of passes per minute's possession ie the rate of passing

Under this method of calculation, when passing is related to possession, then Junior All Blacks made only 53% more passes than **Tonga** and not 60% as shown earlier.



JAB



SAM



JAP








FJI

TON

	PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
JAB	7.8 passes per minute possession	7.9 passes per minute possession
SAM	7.4	6.3
JAP	7.0	7.4
FJI	6.7	6.7
TON	5.1	5.3

The number of passes made by a team can also vary considerably from match to match. The following table shows the average number of passes per country per game together with the most in a game and the least in a game

It can be seen from the above that there were noticeable contrasts between the highs and lows of certain teams. Samoa for example, made 72 more passes in their game against Fiji than they did in their game against Japan. Not all teams had such wide variances however. Japan's highest passing game was only 21% more than their lowest. All their games therefore had a similar level of passing. This was not the case with the other teams.

	Average Passes per team	Most in a game	Least in a game	% difference
 <b>JAB</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>26% more</b>
 <b>JAP</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>21% more</b>
 <b>FJI</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>33% more</b>
 <b>SAM</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>77% more</b>
 <b>TON</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>189% more</b>

### PLAYER PASSING






Total passes made in the championship were broken down into 3:

- Passes made by forwards
- Passes made by the scrum half
- Passes made by backs

**Passing % by forwards**  
**Passing % by scrum half**  
**Passing % by backs**

PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
<b>20%</b>	<i>20%</i>
<b>41%</b>	<i>42%</i>
<b>39%</b>	<i>38%</i>
<b>100%</b>	<i>100%</i>

When the 2000+ passes made in Pacific Nations Cup 2009 were allocated into these 3 groups, the results were as follows:






	Passes by Forwards	Passes by Scrum half	Passes by Backs	Total Passes
 <b>JAB</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>530</b>
 <b>SAM</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>478</b>
 <b>JAP</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>463</b>
 <b>FJI</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>412</b>
 <b>TON</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>306</b>

What the above table shows is the number of passes made by the three groups of players. It simply shows how active they were in passing the ball.






## SECTION 2 – STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND MATCH SUMMARY

The following table takes this further. It shows the proportion of a teams passes made by each group. Where certain teams use forwards more as suppliers of the ball for onward transmission by the backs, other teams involve the forwards themselves in the distribution process.






This is what the table shows:

		% of passes made by Forwards	% of passes made by Scrum Half	% of passes made by Backs
	<b>SAM</b>	24%	38%	38%
	<b>TON</b>	23%	46%	31%
	<b>JAB</b>	21%	36%	43%
	<b>FJI</b>	16%	41%	43%
	<b>JAP</b>	16%	47%	37%

The next tables show what each rank of forwards of each team did with the ball when they were in possession of it. The first table shows the number of times each countries' forwards had the ball in their hands and then notes the number of times they passed it. This is then expressed as a ratio so that if a team's forwards passed the ball 20 times having received it 100 times, the ratio would be expressed as 1 to 5 – ie 1 pass for every 5 possessions. Again, the table shows major differences between the countries.

		Ratio of Passes : Possession Forwards 2009	Ratio of Passes : Possession Forwards 2008
	<b>SAM</b>	<b>1 pass in 2.2 possessions</b>	<i>1 pass in 2.5 possessions</i>
	<b>JAB</b>	<b>1 in 2.4</b>	<i>1 in 2.1</i>
	<b>FJI</b>	<b>1 in 3.2</b>	<i>1 in 3.1</i>
	<b>JAP</b>	<b>1 in 3.3</b>	<i>1 in 3.3</i>
	<b>TON</b>	<b>1 in 3.2</b>	<i>1 in 3.5</i>

This difference between the forwards of each country is even more graphically illustrated when the forwards are broken down into the 3 groups of (a) front row, (b) second row and (c) back row. This time the relationship between passes and possession is expressed in percentage terms, so that if a group of forwards received the ball 20 times and passed it 6 times, it means they passed it on 30% of occasions. The front row passing percentages for each team is shown below:

		% of times ball passed by Front Row 2009	% of times ball passed by Front Row 2008
	<b>SAM</b>	34%	34%
	<b>JAB</b>	34%	29%
	<b>TON</b>	26%	27%
	<b>FJI</b>	23%	27%
	<b>JAP</b>	15%	32%



These percentages were however not the same as far as the second rows were concerned.

		% of times ball passed by 2 <sup>nd</sup> row 2009	% of times ball passed by 2 <sup>nd</sup> row 2008
<b>SAM</b>		<b>46%</b>	30%
<b>JAB</b>		<b>38%</b>	58%
<b>JAP</b>		<b>30%</b>	19%
<b>TON</b>		<b>28%</b>	35%
<b>FJI</b>		<b>26%</b>	34%

The back row figures were as follows.

		% of times ball passed by Back Row 2009	% of times ball passed by Back Row 2008
<b>SAM</b>		<b>52%</b>	45%
<b>JAB</b>		<b>46%</b>	52%
<b>FJI</b>		<b>39%</b>	34%
<b>JAP</b>		<b>37%</b>	33%
<b>TON</b>		<b>33%</b>	29%

### PASSING MOVEMENTS

Passes are grouped into passing movements – i.e. one pass movement, two pass movements and so on. The data shows that some 80% of all passing movements contained two passes or less. This now appears to be a constant and is similar in every tournament.

### RUCKS/MAULS (2<sup>ND</sup> PHASE)

The average number per game was **120**. (2008 – 117)

The most in any game was **134**  
– the fewest was **89**

The most by any team in a game was **84** – the least, **42**

The average rucks/mauls per team is attached



	PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
<b>JAB</b>	<b>64</b>	64
<b>JAP</b>	<b>62</b>	49
<b>FJI</b>	<b>60</b>	55
<b>TON</b>	<b>59</b>	66
<b>SAM</b>	<b>55</b>	51

The previous table indicates the total number of rucks/mauls created by each team in the competition expressed as average per game.

However, the number of rucks and mauls made by one team may be constrained because it obtained only limited possession of the ball. In order to address this, an alternative calculation has been made which relates the number of rucks/mauls to the share of ball in play time won by each team. This is expressed in the number of rucks created for every minutes' possession obtained by a team.



	PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
<b>TON</b>	<b>4.0 rucks per minute possession</b>	<i>4.3 rucks per minute possession</i>
<b>FJI</b>	<b>3.9</b>	3.7
<b>JAB</b>	<b>3.8</b>	3.6
<b>JAP</b>	<b>3.7</b>	3.3
<b>SAM</b>	<b>3.4</b>	3.6

### BREAKDOWN RETENTION

At the breakdown the team taking in the ball retained possession by either winning the ball or being awarded a penalty on **90%** of occasions.

The percentage success rate for each team was very similar and was as follows:



	PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
<b>JAP</b>	<b>94%</b>	91%
<b>FJI</b>	<b>91%</b>	92%
<b>JAB</b>	<b>89%</b>	92%
<b>TON</b>	<b>89%</b>	88%
<b>SAM</b>	<b>88%</b>	90%

### KICKING

The average number per game was **50** (2008 – 49).

The most open play kicks in a game was **74** - the fewest **31**

The most by a team was **36** – the least **11**



	PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
<b>JAP</b>	<b>31</b>	30
<b>SAM</b>	<b>30</b>	25
<b>TON</b>	<b>27</b>	18
<b>FIJI</b>	<b>20</b>	23
<b>JAB</b>	<b>18</b>	26

When an adjustment is made to take account of possession obtained, by each team, then the kicking table changes slightly. It shows that Japan also kicked at a higher rate than the other teams..

		PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
JAP		<b>1.9 kicks per minute possession</b>	<i>2.0 kicks per minute possession</i>
TON		<b>1.8</b>	1.2
SAM		<b>1.8</b>	1.7
FIJ		<b>1.3</b>	1.6
JAB		<b>1.1</b>	1.4

### SUMMARY

A summary of previous tables is shown – it shows the average number of rucks, passes, and kicks per game and the rate for each per minute possession.

		Rucks/Mauls		Passes		Kicks	
		Average	Rate	Average	Rate	Average	Rate
JAB		<b>64</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1.1</b>
SAM		<b>55</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1.8</b>
FIJ		<b>60</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1.3</b>
JAP		<b>62</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1.9</b>
TON		<b>59</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1.8</b>

## RESTARTS

Of 50m restarts, **37%** were kicked long (2008 – 55%) – **63%** were kicked short (2008 – 45%) and were contestable. When 50m restarts were kicked short, the kicking team regained possession on 1 in 4.6 occasions.

Success rate and restart type varied between the 5 teams. The most effective teams in retaining short restarts are shown below. The table shows the type of restart kicked by each team and retention rates of short restarts.

		50m Restarts		Retention rate
		Short	Long	Short
JAP		<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7 in 21</b>
SAM		<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1 in 11</b>
TON		<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2 in 14</b>
FIJ		<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2 in 14</b>
JAB		<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2 in 10</b>

It can be seen that there was a major contrast between certain teams all kicked short more often than long. This is unusual. In other competitions there are always some team who concentrate on kicking long, their priority being territory as opposed to pressure.

### LINEOUTS

The average number of lineouts per game was **25** (2008 – 31)

The most line outs in a game was 33 – the least, 23 (on 5 occasions).

**Average no per game**  
**Percentage competed**  
**Possession retained**

PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
<b>25</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>64%</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>76%</b>	<b>75%</b>

Teams had a varying success on their lineouts – **Fiji's** 64% success rate was noticeably lower than **Samoa's** 82%. Lineout success on own throw and opposition throw for all teams are shown below, including lineout steals won and lost

		Success %		Lineout Steals		Not straight / Pen/FK / Knock-on	
		Own Throw	Opposition Throw	Lost on Own Throw	Won on Opposition Throw	Own Throw	Opposition Throw
	<b>JAB</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>SAMOA</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>TONGA</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>JAPAN</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>FIJI</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>

### SCRUMS

The average number of scrums per game was **19** (2008 – 19).

The most scrums in a game was 24 – the least 16

**Average no per game**  
**Possession retained**

PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>90%</b>	<b>91%</b>

Scrum success on own feed and opposition feed are attached

Again, ball retention was relatively high for all teams.

With such high percentage of possession retained, it is no surprise that heels against the head were few and far between. In total there were just 4 in almost 300 scrums – or 1 in every 2.5 games. The table shows the countries that won and lost tight heads:

	<b>SAM</b>
	<b>FJI</b>
	<b>TON</b>
	<b>JAP</b>
	<b>JAB</b>






Scrum Success %		Heels against the head	
Own Feed	Opposition Feed	Won	Lost
<b>95%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>95%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>92%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>85%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>81%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>

### PENALTIES

In Pacific Nations Cup 2009, the average number of penalties and free kicks awarded in a game was **22**. (2008 – 22)

There was a wide spread between the matches. The most awarded in a single game was 30 (J All Blacks v Tonga) – the least, 16 (Fiji v Japan).

The following table comprises the total penalties awarded to and conceded by each team. However, because the number of penalties can vary from match to match for a number of reasons, a better measure is the **proportion** of penalties conceded by a team in all their matches compared with their opponents. This shows that **Japan** was far less likely to be penalised than their opponents, whereas **Tonga** were more likely.

		Total		Proportion	
		Penalties/FK For	Penalties/FK Against	% For	% Against
	<b>JAP</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>44%</b>
	<b>FJI</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>47%</b>
	<b>JAB</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>49%</b>
	<b>SAM</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>52%</b>
	<b>TON</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>57%</b>

### CATEGORIES OF OFFENCES PENALISED

The following table groups the penalties awarded into 10 categories – these – and their proportion of all penalties - are as follows:

	%
<b>Ruck/tackle on ground</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Offside</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Scrum</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Lineout</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Foul play</b>	<b>&gt;1</b>
<b>Obstruction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Dangerous tackle</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>+10m</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Maul collapse</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>100%</b>



### PENALTY OPTIONS

Of all penalties and free kicks awarded, the following were the options taken by the 5 teams

	Kick to Touch	Kick for Goal	Tap	Scrum	Total
 JAB	34	4	8	3	49
 TON	26	8	5	2	41
 SAM	15	10	13	2	40
 FJI	18	14	13	-	45
 JAP	19	10	13	2	44
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>219</b>

The table shows that the **Junior All Blacks** attempted only 4 penalty goals compared to **Fiji's** 14. Also, **Junior All Blacks** and **Tonga** preferred to kick for touch compared to the other teams – the former kicked to touch on 69% of occasions and **Tonga** 61% - while **Fiji**, **Japan** and **Samoa** preferred to take tap penalties.

### CARDS – YELLOW & RED

The following paragraphs examine the circumstances and effects of the issue of red and yellow cards during Pacific Nations Cup 2009

#### RED CARDS

There were **0** red cards issued (2008 – none)






#### YELLOW CARDS

There were **7** yellow cards issued during the championship (2008 – 8). The reasons for each of the yellow cards were as follows:

	PACIFIC NATIONS 2009
Ruck hands off feet	2
Dangerous Tackle	1
Tackle preventing release	1
offside	1
Playing player without ball	1
Not back 10m	1

Of the 10 matches, there were 6 which contained at least one yellow card as shown in the following table, meaning 4 (or 40%) of all matches did not contain a single yellow card. The most yellow cards in one match was 2 (**JAB v Tonga**).

The table shows the breakdown of yellow and red cards per team.

	PACIFIC NATIONS 2009	PACIFIC NATIONS 2008
 TON	3	2
 FJI	2	1
 JAP	2	-
 SAM	-	2
 JAB	-	-